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OBSERVATIONS ON THE VIBRATORY CILIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—It appears to me that the microscope, in its lately-improved form, is too seldom applied to pathological, or even anatomical researches, particularly as the present moderate price of a very useful instrument might place it in the hands of every one. The convenient little instrument called Stanhope's microscope, scarcely more bulky than a twenty-five cent piece, but nevertheless of considerable power, seems to me particularly adapted to pathological investigations.

In order to call the attention of the profession to the interesting work on the subject, by Prof. Donné, of Paris, entitled "*Cours de Microscopie*," just published, I send you, for insertion, the following translation of his observations on the *Vibratory Cilia*.

Reading, Penn., Feb. 25th, 1844. Very respectfully yours,

John P. Hiester.

In order to observe the vibratory cilia, one must procure a particle of *true* mucous membrane from the nose or mouth of a mammiferous animal, or, better still, the edge of a frog's tongue, and place it between two plates of glass in a drop of water; with a magnifying power of three hundred one will readily remark, on the free edge of the fragment, an undulatory movement, of which the cause will not be clearly perceived at first, on account of the rapid motion of the cilia. But by degrees, as the motion becomes slower and the eye is fixed with greater attention, the cilia become apparent, and will be seen projecting from the edge of the shred of membrane like the teeth of a comb, all agitating themselves in the same direction. All the cilia lean the same way, and the vibratory motion is propagated from one point to another, always in one direction. It is easy to conceive how the fluid in which they are plunged, being struck in the same direction by this rapid succession of small impulsions, is put in motion itself, and carries with it any foreign particles which it holds in suspension. The vibratory cilia exist over the whole surface of the mucous membrane; and if they are merely seen on its free edge, it is only because they are there thrown upon the clear field of the microscope, whilst in other parts they are confounded with the gray mass that supports them. Nevertheless, by attentive observation they will be perceived confusedly over the whole of the shred under examination, and its surface will be seen bristled with myriads of cilia in continual motion.

The motion of these little organs is a very curious phenomenon, to which may be fairly attributed the movement impressed upon the fluids in which the mucous membranes are bathed, and is no doubt also the cause of motion in those which circulate in certain canals, for cilia have been detected in many of the ducts of the animal system, such as the Fallopian tubes, the salivary ducts, &c. &c. . . . . . . The motion of the cilia continues a long time after the death of the animal, even upon pieces of the membrane that are detached from the body. It will continue for several hours after it is prepared for the plate of the microscope, provided the shred is continually moistened with water. There are other phenomena observable, that are exceedingly curious, and well calculated to make us reflect upon the association of the elements whose *ensemble* preserve the animal organism. . . . . . . If shreds of the bronchial mucous membrane of a hare or a dog, or, better still, the Schneiderian membrane of man, are placed under the microscope, the following phenomena will be observed:—during the space of several hours, sometimes during a whole day, or even more, no notable change will occur, the motion of the cilia will be continued, provided the water is renewed as fast as it evaporates. But after a certain period of more or less duration, according to the species or state of the animal, the epithelium begins to separate from the membrane which it covers. One sees it detach itself, glide, as it were, to the surface of the membrane, and float entirely free in the water in pieces of greater or less size. The fragments continue to bear their cilia still in motion. But the disaggregation does not stop here. In a little while these fragments are again broken, but not irregularly, or, so to say, at hazard. The division is arrested at a certain point, and you have under your eye regular particles, of very nearly the same size, all having a conical form, thickened at one end, which is rounded, and terminating at the other in a point or tail. These particles are the constituent elements of the epithelium. These are the cones, which arranged side by side imbricated, form a kind of web, or epidermic membrane, like the tiles on the roof of a house. The division is arrested at this point, and, to continue our comparison, like the tiles of a roof, which are removed first in larger pieces and then separated from each other, form so many distinct, regular, uniform pieces, that no longer admit of being divided without being broken. But this is not all. The elementary cones of the epithelium continue to bear their vibratory cilia on their larger end. These cilia continue in motion, and finally, each cone commences an independent movement, and becomes a living being, endowed with those essential properties which we call life. These particles transport themselves in all directions through the fluid in which they float; they contract and elongate themselves to perform these evolutions, and live during a number of hours, until death, either from lapse of time or accidental circumstances, overtakes them. These animalcules perish suddenly under the influence of physical and chemical agents, such as an elevated temperature, acids, alkalies, &c. I have preserved them alive for more than twelve hours after having seen them detached in the manner just described, from the Schneiderian membrane of the human subject, which I scarcely lost from my sight for a whole day and night. I have showed these animalcules to very experienced observers, who took them for infusoriæ. What is to be thought of the nature and origin of these singular animalcules? They are not infusoriæ engendered by the putrid decomposition of the animal tissue submitted to observation. These animalcules result, I repeat it, from the mechanical division, so to say, and from the breaking up of the epithelium within a period of time sufficiently short to enable us to follow the progress of their formation and have demonstrative proof of it. They can only be compared, in regard to their origin and formation, to the seminal animalcules which are produced by a process precisely similar. These animalcules are a product of the seminiferous tubes of the testicle. They result from a sort of desquamation from the parietes of these secreting ducts, and at first are mere agglomerations, or masses having a confused motion. The individuals are separated from these masses very much like the vibratory cones from the epithelium, and constitute beings endowed with a free and spontaneous motion. There is a complete analogy in the origin of these two species of animalcules, and there is nothing more extraordinary in the one than the other. The vibratory epithelium is formed of organized particles, supporting by its union the general life to which it belongs, but is capable of acquiring an individual life by separating and isolating itself.

THEORY OF GALL AND SPURZHEIM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—If the size of the brain has any considerable influence in producing the strength and activity of the mental faculties, I should have supposed that the size of the external organs of sense, would have, long ago, been observed to manifest remarkable degrees of difference in the power of perceptibility; but not a suspicion of the kind has ever been raised. When the Belgian giant was in this city, I put the question to him whether he was aware of hearing sounds or seeing objects at any greater distance than other people, to which he replied that he was not. Indeed, so unconscious was he of the possession of any superior power in the external organs of sense, that the question struck him with a degree of surprise. The size of the organs of sense in this man must have been much larger than the size of the same organs in the general run of mankind, and yet he had never observed any difference. He was aware that he possessed greater physical strength than other men; if his senses had been really superior to those of other people, would he not have also been aware of that? In case of the slightest defect of any of our external senses, we become immediately aware of it by a direct comparison with others in the exercise of the faculty of that sense. The least dimness of sight or dulness of hearing is immediately detected by a comparison with our companions. Does the large man, in whom the dimensions of the sense of feeling is four-fold greater than in the small man, feel a greater degree of heat or cold than the small man in the same temperature? Can the one form any better idea of moisture and dryness, hardness and softness, roughness and smoothness, than the other? The class of mental phenomena is so entirely dissimilar to the phenomena exhibited by the other organs, that no analogy can be instituted between them, and all deductions from such analogies, when instituted, must necessarily be erroneous. What does Dr. Spurzheim mean by energy of action, as applied to the brain and the external senses? Does he mean that the retina of a large eye is more sensible to the light reflected from minute objects than the retina of the small eye? That a less quantity of light will affect a large retina than a small one? That a large brain, *ceteris paribus*, can discover distant objects or hear distant sounds which to a small brain are unseen or inaudible? This is the species of power that must constitute superiority in the external senses, which are also a part of the human mind. Can it be meant that a large nerve ramified on the organ of taste, will distinguish sweetness, sourness and bitterness, in substances, where a small nerve of taste can distinguish nothing? Or is it meant that these impressions when made are more permanent and durable in the former than in the latter case? In a matter so palpably open to observation, is it not a little singular that the first information which we obtain of different degrees of power between a large retina and a small one, should come to us through the medium of hypothesis? The image of an object impressed on the retina of a large eye, is larger than the image of the same object on the retina of a small eye, but the image is equally complete in both cases, and produces an equal degree of stimulus in proportion to the mass to be moved or impressed. The permanency also of the impression is likely to be as great in the one case as in the other. It is equally difficult to conceive how the ideas derived from the external senses can be any more distinct, vivid or permanent, in large brains than in small ones. I presume that Drs. Gall and Spurzheim never gave the operations of the mind that particular analysis which is contained in the works of the English and American writers. The supposed analogy, between the functions of the other organs and that of the brain, appears to be the chief groundwork of their system. But how could any analogy, even, between the liver and the lungs, have ever led to the discovery of the oxygenation of the blood? Much less, then, can the exercises of the brain be solved by their similitude to the functions of the muscles and the grosser organs.

Like all medical writers who have made one particular organ their especial study, Drs. Gall and Spurzheim have magnified amazingly its relative importance in the human system. The human brain is a physical organ like the stomach or the lungs, and its size merely is of no more importance than the size of the other organs. A large-sized brain is entirely out of place, and must necessarily be feeble, if the other organs are not in keeping with it. The size of the head must be in proportion to the rest of the body to possess strength and energy. A large stomach can be of no advantage, if the sanguineous system and the respiratory system are not in a due proportion to it; its digestive power can be no greater, and its function performed with no more ease.

The number and variety of ideas, derived from the senses, must be the same, be the size of the individual brain what it may. A small brain may give us only a miniature likeness of the external world, but the picture will be as complete and perfect, and appear as large to the brain itself, as if the brain were ever so large. There is one fact in physiology which shows that the size of the brain may be counterbalanced by another principle. It is a well-known fact, that the smaller the size of the individual, and consequently the smaller the size of each organ in particular, the quicker will be the pulsations or motion of the heart, and consequently the quicker will be the train of ideas and of feelings. In other words, the lighter the wheel-work, the swifter the motion; so that what is lost in weight, is gained in time. The superior vivacity of small people, is proverbial; while, on the contrary, dulness and heaviness are spontaneously associated with large brains, as if bulk or size were an impediment to, and incompatible with, the ethereal operations of the mind.

John Hunter, as I have observed in a former paper, regarded the stomach as the controlling organ of the system, and every attentive observer of the functions of the animal economy, I think, must coincide with him in opinion. If the stomach is a weak organ, the whole system will be weak, and the mental operations, be the brain large or small, will be weak and feeble. If the stomach be strong, the ideas and feelings will be likewise strong and energetic. The strength of the mental capacity depends upon the strength of the gastric viscera. The energy of the brain is, again, exceedingly dependent upon the respiratory organs. The oxygen of the air has no despisable agency in the vigor and brilliancy of our ideas, in the transport of our feelings, and the rapidity and distinctness of our sensations. Whoever has inhaled the exhilarating gas, or experienced the difference between the country air and the ocean breezes, will find no difficulty in conceiving the important part which the vital air plays in giving energy to the function of the brain. The force of the heart constitutes still another item in estimating the energy of the brain. A languid circulation will produce a languid state of the brain; and be its size what it may, its functions will more or less depend upon the force of the heart. Now, what rules have Gall and Spurzheim given us to determine the strength of the stomach, the power of the respiratory organs to vivify the blood, or the capacity of the heart to supply the brain with the vital fluid? The remaining organs, too, all act their part in strengthening or weakening the function of the brain. The phrenologists will reply, "we have supposed all these circumstances to be equal." But how can any opinion be formed of the energy of the brain, unless some rules are established to determine the energy of those organs on which the energy of the brain mainly depends? If a judgment could be formed of the positive size of the stomach, respiratory organs, or the heart, it would give us no rule of determining the *degree of energy* with which their offices were performed.

The operation of the external senses forms a part, and no ignoble part, of the mental function; and what rules have Gall and Spurzheim given us to determine the dimensions of the nerves of these organs? Are they invariably large when the brain is large? Does the size of the optic and auditory nerves always correspond to the size of the brain? Are these nerves always large when the organs of sense are large? Are the senses of taste, smelling and feeling, sure to be acute when the brain is the most active? The external senses are the basis of all our knowledge, and I am surprised at the degree of inattention with which they are treated by Drs. Gall and Spurzheim. In the system of these gentlemen, the five external senses hardly appear to be necessary to the acquisition of a knowledge of the external world.

The second prominent principle of Gall and Spurzheim, is that the brain consists of a plurality of organs. It is singular enough that the existence of these organs should have been inferred from the supposed existence of a plurality of metaphysical principles, which they denominate primitive principles—a species of principles always regarded by philosophers with the greatest distrust. How subtle and intangible the principle of Ideality, Comparativeness, or Causality. What two philosophers could possibly give the same definition of them? To infer the positive existence of physical organs from the supposed existence of abstract principles so extremely problematical, appears to me to be a deviation from every acknowledged rule of philosophizing. Mr. Spurzheim has discovered thirty-five primitive abstract principles, denominated sentiments, propensities and faculties, which he contends must require as many separate organs for their manifestation. I should as soon have thought of searching the retina of the eye for a plurality of organs located there, for the purpose of distinguishing the diversity of objects addressed to the sense of sight, as of searching the surface of the brain for a plurality of organs as the instruments of the diverse mental operations. The eye performs a multifarious office, like the brain, and would seem to require a similar diversity of subordinate organs. There is a plurality of elementary principles in the blood; does it not, therefore, follow that the heart must have a plurality of organs to eliminate and combine these principles? The office of the stomach is as manifold as the office of the brain; does it not also require a plurality of little subordinate stomachs? How discordant and diversified the sounds addressed to the ear; how numerous the species of odors; how opposite the degrees and kinds of sensations produced by the single organ of feeling. The anatomy and organization of the brain, like the anatomy and organization of the eye or any other organ, conduct us to the conclusion that it is a single organ, all its parts contributing to the accomplishment of a single purpose, the production of a train of feelings and ideas.

Dr. Spurzheim has allotted several cerebral organs for the reception and manifestation of the impressions derived from one single organ of sense, the sense of sight; viz.: Color, Configuration, Size, Individuality, Ideality, &c. There are thirty-five cerebral organs to receive and manifest the impressions derived from the five organs of sense; that is, seven cerebral organs for each organ of sense, or in this proportion. The necessity of such an arrangement surpasses my comprehension. In its form, the sanguiferous system corresponds very nearly to the nervous system, and the heart has probably as many branches as the brain; but yet all these branches, extremely complicated and diversified in their action, imply no diversity in the action of the heart, nor was there ever a diversity of subordinate organs suspected. No analogy of any organ in the system, conducts us to the conclusion that there is a plurality of organs in the brain.

According to the method which Dr. Spurzheim follows in discovering and defining a special faculty of the mind, many more special faculties might be added to the list which he has given us; more easily cognizable, and more clearly distinguishable from each other. The love of motion is earlier developed than the love of music, and dancing was in vogue before the violin or the piano forte was invented. The gambols of children are more pleasing than the softest music. *Thirst* is as distinct from hunger, as physical love is from the love of gain. Thirst exists without hunger, and hunger exists without thirst. Innutritious liquids will not satisfy hunger, nor solid food satisfy thirst. Perhaps another Charles Bell may discover that these two propensities proceed from two distinct sets of nerves, distributed to the stomach. There should be, therefore, an organ of Thirst. The propensity to sleep is as constant and urgent as the propensity to eat, and the gratification equally pleasant. In some people it constitutes the most delicious indulgence; and, in many species of animals, it is even stronger, and indulgence in it more gratifying, than in the human species. Why should there not be an organ of Sleep? The love of intoxication is a distinct propensity from thirst or hunger, and discovers itself among all nations. It is the love of exhilaration, and for the most part originates in the constitution of the nervous system. Why should there not be a special organ for the manifestation of this propensity? There is also a propensity to see, a propensity to hear, a propensity to taste, to smell and to feel. Why not a special organ for each of these original propensities?

Peter Camper, a Dutchman of some note, who figured as a physiologist about a hundred years ago, probably in compliance with long-established prejudices, for, in the western part of Europe, he could have had but few opportunities of personal observation upon the subject upon which he treated, invented a method of ascertaining the intellectual capacities of the different races of men, founded upon the different conformations of the frontal portion of the brain or head. Camper contended that the forehead of the white race was more erect than that of either of the other races of men, and that the forehead of the African race was the least erect of all. Gall and Spurzheim have seized upon this hypothesis, for it was but mere hypothesis with Camper, to build up a superstructure of their own. In this city there is from one to two thousand of the African race, and there has always been about the proportion one man of color to twelve whites. I have often noticed the shape of their foreheads in connection with the facial angle invented by Camper, but could never discover any prevailing difference between the erectness of their foreheads and the foreheads of the whites. In the same number of individuals there is, according to my observation, as great a number of erect foreheads among the African as among the European tribe. In all our American cities, we have had a much better opportunity of deciding upon a fact of this nature than Camper could possibly have had in the cities of Europe, where the colored races are, and always have been, comparatively rare. If there had been any truth in the hypothesis of Camper, would not the fact have long ago become proverbial among us, like the other external peculiarities among the two colors? The shorter hair, the flatter nose, the more prominent heel, have all become proverbial; if the forehead had been really less upright, would it not have been observed, and would the race not have been reproached with it? The color makes the forehead of the African, at first sight, less conspicuous than the forehead of the white man, and, perhaps, it may have influenced our judgment with regard to its height and erectness, and so have originated the error. A retreating forehead, however, does exist in individuals among all mankind; but even the existence of such a conformation of the forehead does not imply, in my mind, any deficiency in the frontal portion of the brain. The brain is a soft mass, and conforms itself, in shape, to the shape of the cranium. The soft parts in contact with the bones always conform themselves to the bones, and not the bones to the soft parts. Dr. Spurzheim evidently supposes the brain to originate the shape of the cranium, and the shape of the cerebral organs to produce a corresponding bump or prominence in the bones of the head—a postulate of the greatest importance to his theory, but which no physiologist would consent to concede to him. The same frontal mass of brain may exist where the bone retreats, as if it were upright. In the former case, the same mass merely reclines, whereas, in the latter, it is forced into a more upright position by the different position of the bone. If the liver or the lungs were to exhibit a similar deviation in shape, is it supposable that the new shape would essentially affect the strength and energy of function in either of these organs? Nature allows great latitude in the shape of all the animal organs, without creating any perceptible difference in the energy of their functions. As little consequence is it to the vital force of the brain, whether one of its lobes is a little larger or smaller than the other. How could it affect the oxygenation of the blood, if one lobe of the lungs happened to be of a little different shape or size from the other; or the secretion of the bile, if one lobe of the liver be twice the size of the other, and of different shape?

There is a singular hiatus between the situation of the cerebral organs as they are described and located by Dr. Spurzheim, and the external organs of sense. Language is oral as well as written, and one would suppose that the organ of Language should be in connection with the auditory nerve. The organ of Music should also be located in the same connection. But the former is located at a great distance from the nerve of hearing, and the latter not very near it. The organs of Color, Configuration, Locality and Ideality, the anatomist would expect to find in close connection with the thalami nervorum opticorum; Alimentiveness, in a continuous route to the nerves of taste and smell; the organ of Combativeness, at the origin of the brachial nerves. What complicated processes the mind must go through in order to form an idea of any particular event, an eclipse of the moon, for instance. The external senses, the eyes, are barely the preliminary instruments in informing us of a distant object, but give us no idea of its color, figure, size, whether it is a thing or an event, or whether it is an individual object or several objects. The organ of Color determines that the moon, in a total eclipse, is black. The organ of Configuration determines that it is round and not square. The organ of Size determines that it is small. The organ of Comparativeness, that it is less in size than the sun. The organ of Individuality, that it is single. The organ of Eventuality, that the eclipse is an event. Thus the impression made on the retina, goes through six special organs before it becomes a complete idea of an eclipse of the moon, and all these organs holding no anatomical or vascular connection with each other.

The organ of Adhesiveness manifests a propensity to adhere to the same persons; and the organ of Inhabitiveness a propensity to adhere to the same places and things. Now who does not perceive that the distinction here made is founded on the difference between persons and places, or between animate and inanimate objects, and not on any conceivable difference between a propensity for persons and a propensity for places. In the same way the appetite of hunger might be divided into as many special propensities as there are different species of food, and the organ of sight into as many subordinate organs as there are classes of objects addressed to it. Such distinctions neither contribute to information nor to utility; they may be multiplied without end, and invented where no actual differences, in things, exist.

The shapes of the phrenological organs are no less remarkable than their relative situations and their functions. Some are nearly squares, others parallelograms; some are triangular, others are trapezoids. In general, they bear no similitude to any other animal organs. There is a certain law of configuration running through all the animal organs, a certain cylindrical and globular contour or form, easily cognizable, but yet very difficult to define. In the delineation of the cerebral organs, by Dr. Spurzheim, this law is no where discoverable; the shapes of the organs have no conformity to each other or to the shapes of the other organs of the animal system.

The special organs of the brain, we are informed by Dr. Spurzheim, are developed, or increased in size, by exercise. The exercise of an organ, in itself considered, has no effect in enlarging its size. The size of an organ depends upon the quantity of blood which it receives in a given time, as I have shown in a paper published in this Journal in July, 1843. The exercise of the brain has no effect in supplying itself, thereby, with an extra quantity of blood, and, therefore, the exercise of the cerebral mass in general, or of any part of it in particular, can have no tendency to increase its size. The more bile the liver secretes or the greater its activity, the more that organ is emaciated or diminished in size; and such must be the effect of exercise with every organ which, by that exercise, is not supplied with a greater amount of blood. Even the muscles are not enlarged by exercise, of itself; the enlargement is owing to the agency of exercise in forcing into them a greater amount than ordinary of arterial blood, their appropriate nutriment. Muscular exercise, added to the natural force of the circulation, is in this way the great agent, and almost the only agent, in augmenting the size of the body in general and of the brain in particular. The muscles have a known agency in propelling the blood; the brain has no such power, and consequently no power of augmenting its own size. The brain manifests the most perfect passivity, and its phenomena are produced by the action of foreign stimuli upon it. A nerve never manifests the least contractile power. If, in an amputation or any other surgical operation, the end of a nerve is left exposed, it remains exposed, until it sloughs off; it never retracts.

If mankind do not differ perceptibly in the capacity of their external senses, what reason have we to search for a greater difference in their mental capacities? There are instances of idiocy and of *non compos mentis,* as there are of blindness and deafness; but as a general principle, the capacities of the human race appear to me to be very nearly equal; not mathematically equal, for animal bodies admit of no such equality, but physiologically the same. In muscular strength they differ materially; but in the phenomena of the mind, carried on whether they will or not, a class of phenomena which resembles no other but the phenomena of the senses, the individuals of the human race differ much too little ever to become a subject of discussion.

The largest class of brains are not found among those who, from infancy, are educated scholars, but among the laboring class. The brains of the laboring class, like their lungs and stomach, are enlarged by exercise. The size of their muscles is only an index of the size of their brains; the latter are as much larger than the brains of sedentary people, however active may have been their minds, as are their muscles. It is not genius which enlarges the brain, but the plough-handle and the spade.

Providence, Feb. 13th, 1844. D. B. SLACK.

A COFFEE-BEAN IN THE TRACHEA—DEATH OF THE PATIENT.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

OCTOBER 2d, 1843, I was called to visit a child of Mr. S. D., about two years of age, which presented, on examination, the ordinary symptoms of acute bronchitis in a mild form. The disease yielded to treatment, so that on the fourth day I ceased my visits. I learned, however, from the mother of the child, a few days after this, that some difficulty of breathing, and a wheezing sound with a slight cough, still remained.

The child was in the habit of playing with coffee; and she now stated to me that she entertained fears that some of it had been "swallowed" before I was first called, as it had a "fit of choking," although this was not so severe as to attract much attention at the time it occurred. As I had recently seen several other children who labored under a bronchitic affection, I supposed her fears were groundless. I did not, however, again see the patient.

Subsequently, a physician who pretends to have a *thorough* knowledge of diseases of the chest, and to have remarkable success in their treatment, saw the child several times, and after a *critical* examination came to the conclusion that there was considerable inflammation of the mucous membrane of the *right* lung. As the right side of the chest was somewhat enlarged, he thought the right lung to be the only organ diseased, and if (as the mother of the child suggested to him) coffee had passed down the trachea, it must have lodged in that lung. A cough mixture, with an occasional dose of rhei et sodæ, were ordered, with rubefacients externally, and exercise in the open air.

The child continued without much improvement to Nov. 27th. On the 28th I was called again in haste, and found it in convulsions. The day previous it had been exposed to a current of cold air, and eaten a considerable quantity of raisins. I immediately evacuated the contents of the stomach and bowels with ipecac. and sub. mur. hyd., ordered the warm bath, and anti-spasmodics internally. On the following morning it appeared so much improved that we anticipated a happy result. During the day, however, the unfavorable symptoms returned with renewed vigor, and in the evening and night following it had a succession of spasms, which terminated in the death of the little sufferer at 6 o'clock, on the morning of the 30th, forty-two hours after I first saw it.

Autopsy, eight hours after death, in presence of Dr. P. Brown and others. ***Right lung in a healthy condition.*** Left lung considerably enlarged, and lower portion hepatized. In the left bronchial tube, nearly two inches below the bifurcation, found half a grain of burned coffee. Mucous membrane at this point much inflamed, and the tube enlarged, with the walls thickened and more dense than natural.

Liver one third larger than usual, and adhered to the diaphragm very extensively. It appeared to occupy the lower portion of the chest, and to press the right lung from its native position. This, however, was the effect of former disease. The enlargement of the right breast, without a corresponding enlargement or disease of the right lung, is here explained. When the passage of air through the left bronchial tube became obstructed by the coffee, the right lung, in its efforts to do the duty of both, and coming in contact with an unyielding mass of liver below, forced the ribs forward, and gave that side of the chest its unusual prominence.

Near the cardiac orifice of the stomach the vessels were somewhat injected, exhibiting signs of inflammation.

In the small intestines found one grain of unburned coffee, but no indication of disease.

All other organs in a normal condition. **J. H. Morse.**

***Manchester, N. H., Jan. 4th,* 1844.**

ORGANIC DISEASE OF THE HEART—A CASE.

[Communicated for the Boston Med. and Surg. Journal.]

S. A. H., æt. 35, a blacksmith, of active and laborious habits, and apparently in sound health previous to his present illness, was attacked Feb. 8th, 1844, with pyrexia, accompanied by severe pains in the loins and pelvis, and dysuria. In this condition I found him on my first visit on the 9th, his pulse being about 120. A cathartic of calomel and jalap and a Dover's powder or two, followed by warm drinks, exciting perspiration freely, materially mitigated the pains, and reduced the frequency of the pulse to 84. Under the use of infus. uva ursi, bal. juniper and spt. nit. dulc., the dysuria wore off in a day or two after, so that the case presented the appearance of a simple continued fever of a very mild form; the tongue being thinly coated with a white moist fur, and the pulse only slightly accelerated. In this condition he continued some five or six days, using laxatives, diaphoretics, and a mild antiphlogistic regimen. Once during the time he complained of pain in one thumb, at another time of pain in one of his fingers. But these were of short duration, and disappeared spontaneously.

On the morning of the 17th I found a remarkable aggravation of the disease, accompanied by severe pain in his forehead, increased heat of surface, and a pulse beating 120 a minute. I could not account for this sudden increase of his fever. A full dose of hyd. submur., worked off by salts and senna, afforded but little relief. Venesection to the amount of a pound was afterwards resorted to, with temporary relief only. A dose of morphin. sulph., gr. one third, relieved the severe headache, and this symptom was subsequently kept under by a repetition of the dose once in six or eight hours. The fever continued without abatement.

Feb. 20.—Dr. E. Ives, of this city, was called in consultation, and from this time continued to attend with me. About this time we noticed something unusual in the action of the heart. It pulsated with much force, and something abnormal in its sounds led us to suspect organic difficulty in this organ. He now, for the first time, complained of pain in the region of the heart, for which a sinapism was applied, and subsequently an epispastic. Respiration became too frequent and laborious, while a slight delirium, which had shown itself occasionally for a day or two, seemed now subsiding into a stupor. Death occurred on the morning of the 23d.

Autopsia, twenty-one hours after death.—Lungs and abdominal viscera generally healthy. Some adhesion of left lung to pleura costalis, but not great. Pericardium contained about a gill of a slightly reddish serum. Heart of its usual size. On laying open the right auricle, an irregular orifice appeared, a few lines above the auriculo-ventricular valve, being of about one fourth of an inch in diameter, the effect, apparently, of ulceration. The margin of this perforation was jagged or fringed, while the lips of it projected into the auricle. A probe inserted into the opening passed directly into the *left ventricle*, just below the valves of the aorta. The septum or substance perforated was apparently a quarter of an inch in thickness. No other part of the heart was found in a diseased state. The foramen ovale was closed perfectly, the site of it being about an inch from the perforation.

From the relative position of the parts, it seems evident that the powerful contraction of the left ventricle, while it was sending blood into the aorta, would force some of it through this perforation into the right auricle. That it was forced through in this direction is also rendered probable by the appearance of the orifice, the irregular lips of which were protruded into the auricular cavity, while there was no such protrusion on the opposite surface in the ventricle. V. M. Dow.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 29th, 1844.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MARCH 13, 1844.

LECTURES, CATALOGUES, &c.

1. *Magneto-Electricity.*—Dr. Nelson Walkly, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has given the public an account of "*Two years' experience in the employment of Magneto-Electricity as a remedial agent in disease,*" in the form of a compact pamphlet. The author says, very frankly, that no arguments are advanced to show the *quo modo* of the action of magneto-electricity, or upon what principles its remedial powers depend. It must suffice, for ourselves, to say that fifty-six cases of disease are cited by Dr. Walkly, embracing amaurosis, amenorrhœa, angina pectoris, apoplexy, asthma, chorea, deafness, dysmenorrhœa, epilepsy, hysteria, intermittent fever, neuralgia, tic douloureux, paralysis, hemiplegia, paraplegia, rheumatism, &c. &c., alphabetically arranged, and, for aught we know to the contrary, these might have been continued to the numerical end of human woes, which have been subjected to the controlling, all-subduing influences of magneto-electricity. The fact is, Dr. Walkly has been a successful practitioner with his machine; but he runs into the common error of an enthusiastic mind, in supposing that he has discovered or wielded a power that is a sovereign remedy for all diseases.

Since the fall of 1840, Dr. Walkly says that he has been in the almost constant use of his machine, which, by the way, was manufactured by our obliging and ingenious friend, Mr. Daniel Davis, in this city. It is pretty much with new remedies as it is with tea—"far brought and dear bought" gives them an increased value. Now these beautifully constructed instruments are made at our door, and can be had at a reasonable cost, and yet they have no sort of reputation in the city of Boston for relieving distress, for modifying, and much less for removing, diseases.

Highly as we estimate Dr. Walkly's enterprise and determination to lay the elements under contribution for the benefit of man on the bed of sickness, it strikes us that he will by and by turn his attention to some other field for exploration, that will yield him a richer and more certain harvest.

2. *College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.*—A few years ago, it was not an uncommon remark, that the old Crosby Street College was in

a consumptive condition, and that to raise it to health and distinction was a hopeless undertaking. Look at it in 1844, with its one hundred and eighty-two students, and one of the strongest and most unexceptionable faculties on the borders of the Atlantic shores! It presents no aspect of decay or want of vigor in any of its departments. The fact is, the character of the institution never took higher ground than at the present moment; nor was there ever a period in its history when it stood better in the estimation of a discriminating public.

3. *Jefferson Medical College.*—As usual, there is an immense class in attendance. Three hundred and forty-one students shows that there must be something attractive in the character of the institution. In 1843, forty-seven were admitted to the degree of M.D. All the professors are known throughout the length and breadth of the country, as men of learning, brilliancy, and tact in teaching. This, after all, is the true secret of success in a medical school.

4. *Cincinnati School of Medicine.*—At the queen city of the West, they strive manfully against the medical radicalisms of the day, by teaching the science of medicine in the proper and legitimate way. If the people would sustain those who do so much for the rising glory of Ohio, as the regular body of physicians in that noble and enterprising State, medical impostors would not have an abiding place in the commonwealth. Next to Boston, Cincinnati is the paradise of quacks, as Washington is the elysium of hackmen. But we had in view, when this paragraph was commenced, a word in reference to the Cincinnati Summer School of Medicine. Six gentlemen, distinguished for their attainments in science, have associated for the purpose of giving a thorough course of lectures, from April till October. Dr. John P. Harrison, whom we regard as one of the most profound thinkers of the West, so far as his writings are a chart of a man's mind, conducts the course on the Institutes of Medicine. Our friend, Dr. L. M. Lawson, known as the conductor of the Western Lancet, takes charge of the chair of Theory and Practice. If the undertaking does not succeed, then it will be very certain that medical students, in that region, are incapable of appreciating talents and professional qualifications of a high order.

5. *Albany Medical College.*—The recent catalogue of this flourishing institution, has the names of one hundred and eight students. One is quite surprised at the number of operations performed before the class during the term. Dr. March is an expert surgeon, who keeps to the even tenor of his ways, contributing as much to the comfort and happiness of afflicted humanity, by his skill and kindness of heart, as any gentleman in the whole circle of our acquaintance.

6. *Geneva Medical Institution.*—During the late session, one hundred and ninety-five students were matriculated. Notwithstanding the croakings of some envious spectators, who cannot look with pleasure upon the prosperity of any men or measures with which they are not identified, the Geneva faculty have great reason to be proud of their reputation, since it is certain that the increase of students is based on their merits and daily exertions. We wish the college uninterrupted progress in the way of well-doing.

7. *Willoughby University.*—An endorsement on the last catalogue says that "the new arrangement at Willoughby has bettered the school in every respect." It will be recollected that several of the professors, the

last season, united in organizing a new school at Cleveland, Ohio. Fifty-two students were in attendance at the late term at Willoughby, and everything was going on, at the last accounts, prosperously and satisfactorily.

Pulse of the Insane.—Dr. Woodward, in regard to further investigations respecting the pulse of the insane, writes:—"In the course of the month of February I have examined the pulse of 40 cases of recent and excited insanity, mostly maniacs, some of them in the highest state of violence and fury. Of these 40 cases, *nineteen* were males and *twenty-one* females. The average frequency of pulse with these *male patients* was a little more than 80, and with the *females* a little more than 81.

"The pulse of the insane may be made more frequent by various causes, such as unusual excitement at the time of examination, disease of the physical system, either independent of insanity or more or less intimately connected with it as a cause. It may be stated as a fact, that the pulse of most recent cases of mania is increased in frequency, while in chronic cases it is as slow or slower than in health. The pulse itself, independent of other indications, can never be relied on as evidence of insanity. But if the pulse is uniformly considerably more frequent than in health, in a case suspected to be similated, it would be a strongly-corroborating circumstance that insanity was *real* and not *feigned.* In the case of Rogers, the State-prison homicide, one of the medical witnesses testified that his pulse was always, when he felt it, as high as 100 in a minute; and after he was removed to this Hospital, for some time it was found every day to be from 94 to 105."

Mortality of Lowell in 1843.—In looking over the neatly-printed sheet of the last year's deaths in Lowell, we were struck with the orderly arrangement of the diseases, the ages, sex, &c. The City Physician, Elisha Huntington, M.D., who prepared the report, was Mayor of the city when the last bill of mortality was the subject of observation in this Journal, and last week was again chosen to the same responsible office. Dr. Huntington makes a good medical officer, and it was acknowledged on all hands, in 1842, that he was an excellent magistrate.

The total number of deaths was 364, without including 34 stillborn. The following is the number of deaths from some of the more important diseases:—Consumption, 73; inflammation of lungs, 16; cholera infantum, 27 ;typhoid fever, 38; scarlet fever (in 1841, 43), 6; dysentery, 11; inflammation of the brain, 8; croup, 6. Under 10 years of age, 166; over 60 years, 11.

"The foregoing statement," says Dr. H., "has been compiled from the returns of the several undertakers, carefully collated with the reports, kindly furnished by the physicians, and may therefore be considered as very nearly, if not entirely, accurate. It presents the gratifying result of a diminished mortality; the number of deaths being 109 less than in 1842—70 less than in 1841, and 43 less than in 1840. Estimating the population of the city at 25,000, and this is doubtless within the truth, the deaths have been one in 68 7-10 nearly. The erection of a very large number of private dwellings has enabled many of our citizens to occupy more airy and less crowded habitations, than they were formerly obliged to do, and the construction of common sewers, running through the most densely populated portions of the city, has afforded the means of cleanliness that have not existed till recently. To what extent these agencies have operated, in producing the results just adverted to, it may not be easy to determine; but that they have to a good degree promoted the health and comfort of our people, I have no doubt."

Mortality of the City of Rochester, N. Y., in 1843.—Total number of deaths (29 said to be out of the city), 445. Of these, consumption is reported as the cause of 89; summer complaint, 37; inflammation of the lungs, 22; stillborn, 17; scarlet fever, 16; inflammation of the brain, 15; dropsy of the brain, 12; croup, 10; typhus fever, 8; old age, 10, &c. There were, under 10 years of age, 227; and over 60 years of age, 33.

Beigler, the Homœopathist.—The jury in the case of Dr. Augustus P. Beigler, a German homœopathic physician, have brought in a verdict of guilty. He is to be sent to New York city for sentence. It will be recollected that he resided in the city of Rochester—and that he shamefully mal-treated his wife, so that she miscarried. He also set fire to his own house, with a view to defrauding the underwriters. As a practitioner, he has been much sought after by the lovers of new men and new remedies.

Mechanical Medicine.—A Dr. Banning, from western Pennsylvania, is lecturing in Boston, gratuitously, on the feasibility of curing certain diseases by mechanical means. He has an abdominal supporter, ingeniously constructed, which is represented to be the remedy for many maladies. We have not yet had the gratification of hearing the gentleman, but shall allude more particularly to the subject as soon as we have had an opportunity of judging of the merits of the treatment.

Travelling Manakins.—An opinion seems to be gaining ground, that the fever for popular lectures on the manakin is subsiding. Boston is recognized as the radiant point from whence the travelling manakin lecturers take their departure, as the tin pedlars do from Connecticut. The knowledge, however, which they diffuse, is the kind that is needed: the multiplication, therefore, of these energetic popular teachers, is not a calamity, but a direct benefit. Physicians should everywhere give them countenance and encouragement, so long as they simply explain the mechanism of the human body, in connection with the elements of physiology. Possibly there may be too many in the field at once, in some sections of New England, for their own individual profit. Personal experience will correct this evil—the wider the range, the brighter the prospects. We hope that common school committees will avail themselves of the services of these lecturers everywhere, and secure an advantage of incalculable value to young persons generally.

That inkling for pocketing an extraordinary fee for lectures *exclusively for men*, or *exclusively for females*, on special occasions, is an abomination, inasmuch as they excite a vulgar curiosity to see and to hear things that only belong to professional eyes and ears. Severe as are the comments on Mr. Lambert's lectures to *women*, we cannot admit them here. If the public taste demands of him such muddy stuff as is represented to have been made use of, all under the cover of science, he must suffer the consequences. Dr. Curtis, who is also travelling and lecturing with a manakin, appears to be exceedingly modest, and careful not to commit himself by any vulgar descents. Such is the fact, too, says report, in regard to Dr. Appleton and Dr. Jones.

St. Christopher Medical Society.—On the 11th of January, the physicians of the Island of St. Christopher assembled at Basseterre, organized themselves into a society, and adopted such rules and regulations as will not only secure the inhabitants against the vandal inroads of quacks, but give security and character to the medical profession in that insulated part of the world. The members eschew the former custom of farming out their services by the year, to plantations or families, and having adopted a tariff of charges, agree to live up to them in good faith in all time to come. Dr. Wm. T. Thurston, late of Portland, Me., is the efficient secretary of the association. We have not room to copy the schedule of charges, which are in most instances higher than among us.

The prominent practitioners of the island are the following, whose names are inserted for the accommodation of correspondents:—J. T. Caines, Howard M. Clifton, Goldsmith Edmund Griffin, R. G. Davoren, Wm. John Griffin, J. H. Walwyn, Wm. Daniel Beard, Wm. Torrey Thurston, Joseph H. Boon, William Jackson.

Harvard University—Massachusetts Medical College.—The following candidates received the Degree of Doctor in Medicine, Monday, the 4th instant:

Frederick Smith Ainsworth, A. B. (Dartmouth), *Erysipelas.*
Ed. Forbes Barnes, A. B. (Harvard), *Epilepsy.*
George Anson Bates, *Physical Signs of Chest Diseases.*
Charles Ed. Buckingham, A. B. (Harvard), *Fallacy of Hydropathy.*
Lyman Bostwick Case, *Odontalgia.*
James Cody, *Typhoid Fever.*
Albert Arnold Haszard, *Gastric Digestion.*
Jonas Welch Holman, *Topical Bloodletting.*
Freeman Hopkins Jenkins, *Pneumonia.*
Augustus Goddard Peabody, A. B. (Harvard), *Tracheotomy and Laryngotomy.*
Edward Brooks Peirson, A.M., *Phthisis in Ulcerated Stage.*
Charles Abner Phelps, A. B., *Dyspepsia.*
John Joseph Scrage, *Enteritis.*
Justin Edward Stevens, *Cholera Infantum.*
William Henry Thayer, *Causes of Phthisis.*
William Ed. Townsend, A. M. (Harvard), *Causes and Treatment of Ulcers.*
Hervey P. Weston, A. B. (Yale), *Lithotomy.*

WALTER CHANNING,
Dean of Faculty of Medicine.

Boston, March 8, 1844.

Pulmonary Consumption.—"Known from the earliest times," says Dr. Chapman in his late admirable treatise on Thoracic and Abdominal Diseases, "and studied, especially of late, with unexampled diligence, and under every advantage, it still proves as intractable in the management, as at the very dawn of medical science. Being fully established, I doubt whether a cure was ever effected of it. Not an instance, at least, have I seen, and I believe that those who report to the contrary deceive themselves, or the truth is not in them. Efforts directed by talent and learning and patient industry, have been rewarded by little success of any value. They have revealed its morbid anatomy, without advancing in any degree our control over it."

This is the honest declaration of a man who has had as ample an opportunity as any medical practitioner in the United States, probably, of establishing the truth of this melancholy declaration. Yet there are unprincipled men who build up a reputation for extraordinary skill in removing this dreadful disease of the lungs; and occasionally some skilful physician has advocated the possibility of its cure. Even now, a new adventurer has stepped into the ring, and positively declares that he has a sovereign remedy—a mechanical contrivance which he adjusts externally to the patient's body! The declaration is too presumptuous for 1844.

The Automaton with Articulated Voice.—We have had the pleasure of examining privately this *chef-d'œuvre* of human ingenuity—the result of eighteen years' unceasing labor, by a German named Faber. It is constructed upon the model of the human organs of voice, the tongue, larynx, &c., being made of caoutchouc. As voice is the sound produced by air driven from the lungs through the larynx, causing a vibration of the chordæ vocales, it is a function of *animal* life; but this function, in animals inferior to man, as well as in the idiot, is limited to the production of the *simple* or *instinctive* voice; while, in intellectual man, it becomes sufficiently complicated for the purpose of articulation. This is regarded as an evidence of man's intellectual superiority. Here, however, we find the same phenomena produced by an apparatus of caoutchouc and a bellows.

The automaton is represented by a bearded Turk, and the articulations are produced by playing upon sixteen keys. We were quite surprised at being addressed by the automaton, in words very distinctly articulated, thus: "Wel-come Doc-tor For-ry." "Please ex-cuse my slow e-nun-ci-a-tion." After giving various other illustrations of his vocal powers, the automaton sang "Hail Columbia, &c.;" as we were about leaving, he said, "Gen-tle-men, I thank you for your vis-it."

But, after all, *cui est bono?*—*New York Journ. of Med.*

Rupture of the Heart.—M. Peste has recently reported to the Royal Academy of Medicine the following case:—A man, 77 years of age, of sober habits, had, about eighteen months previously, been attacked by apoplexy, which left him paralyzed on the left side. For the last eight months he had been an inmate of the Bicetre. On the 17th of June, after a hearty meal, he was seized with vomiting, and from that time precordial pains and anxiety never left him: he died suddenly on the 19th. On opening the chest, the pericardium was seen to be greatly distended; and on cutting into this, the heart was found buried in a dense clot of blood. On the anterior face of the left ventricle, about its centre, was a transverse rupture, about half an inch in length, and bifid at one extremity. A thin false membrane floated around this opening. The heart was much encumbered with fat. The left coronary artery, at its chief point of sub-division, was dilated into an aneurismal sac, but throughout its whole course it was enlarged to quite the size of the brachial artery, and in several parts it was ossified. The rupture appeared to have been provoked by the vomiting two days before death.—*London Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—Five cases of smallpox, and four of varioloid, have occurred among the students of the Botanic Medical College, at Cincinnati, since January. One student died.—Animal magnetism still rages like a fever at the West; they pay almost as well for exhibitions of mesmerized girls, as the admirers of the imposition in Boston.—A new edition, the fifth, of Dr. Dunglison's celebrated system of human physiology, illustrated with hundreds of engravings, has been published.—Dr. Bell's report of the McLean Asylum is published, and a copy has been received. We have not seen Dr. Woodward's report, and therefore suppose it is not yet printed.—Dr. Dwight, of Portsmouth, N. H., says an exchange paper, stated to one of his patients some time during the last summer, 1843, that he had attended, the evening before, the birth of the *five thousandth* child.—Sir B. C. Brodie, after objecting to the publication by the reporters of his present admirable course of lectures at St. George's Hospital, has finally, and we think wisely, consented. He has done this on the representation to him that the benefits to be derived from them would be greatly increased by their general circulation.—Mr. Sheppard, Surgeon, of Stonehouse, Eng., maintains that the proximate cause of insanity is to be found in the blood.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Cook's case of Spasms of the Heart was received too late for this week.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 9, 35.—Males, 14—Females, 21.

Of consumption, 6—diabetes, 1—marasmus, 2—old age, 2—fits, 1—infantile, 2—abscess, 2—apoplexy, 1—scald, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 2—debility, 2—disease of the heart, 1—cancer, 2—lung fever, 4—erysipelas, 1—croup, 1—dysentery, 1—dropsy, 1—liver complaint, 1—paralysis, 1.

Under 5 years, 12—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 60 years, 9—over 60 years, 8.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Mass. Lat. 42° 15′ 49″. *Elevation* 483 *ft.*

Jan.	Therm.		Barometer.		Wind.	Jan.	Therm.		Barometer.		Wind.
1	from 6	to 24	from 29.67	to 29.72	N W	16	from 26	to 40	from 29.10	to 29.19	N W
2	17	24	29.58	29.60	N E	17	21	32	29.22	29.27	W
3	22	31	29.60	29.61	N E	18	7	13	29.43	29.54	N W
4	17	30	29.61	29.62	N E	19	19	38	29.54	29.54	W
5	20	27	29.52	29.55	N E	20	22	50	29.42	29.52	S W
6	23	31	29.30	29.40	N E	21	33	56	29.26	29.33	S W
7	24	41	29.25	29.28	N W	22	32	45	29.18	29.22	N W
8	26	31	28.84	29.01	N E	23	28	39	29.22	29.30	N W
9	16	24	29.09	29.14	N W	24	16	22	29.38	29.52	N W
10	0	17	29.31	29.32	N W	25	12	32	29.65	29.73	N W
11	8	26	29.56	29.61	N W	26	17	50	29.66	29.71	W
12	2	37	29.65	29.75	N W	27	28	34	29.24	29.36	S W
13	13	36	29.54	29.73	S W	28	29	34	29.45	29.63	N W
14	27	36	29.42	29.55	W	29	26	46	29.58	28.69	N W
15	13	34	29.58	29.64	S W						

This month has been cold, but pleasant—a good, wholesome New England winter month; sleighing excellent to the last, more than two feet of snow in the woods at the close of the month. Thermometer varied in the morning from 0 to 33, at noon from 12 to 56, at sunset from 13 to 49. Barometer ranged from 28.84 to 29.75. Rain, 1.44 inches.

Fatty Tumors.—There is another kind of fatty tumor which occurs not very unfrequently, but which, so far as I know, is not described in books. It is a deposit of fat, the tumor not being well defined, and there being no distinct boundary to it, so that you cannot say where the natural adipose structure ends, and where the morbid growth begins. I will mention to you one of several cases which I have seen, and which will explain sufficiently what I know of the matter. A man came to this hospital some 17 or 18 years ago, with a very odd appearance—an enormous double chin hanging nearly down to the sternum, and an immense swelling at the back part of the neck—two great tumors as big as oranges sticking out, one behind each ear. The patient stated that these tumors had begun to form three or four years before, and had been gradually increasing in size. They gave him no pain, but they made him miserable: and in fact had ruined him. The poor fellow was a gentleman's servant, and having such a strange grotesque appearance nobody would hire him. I gave him half a drachm of liquor potassæ three times a day, and gradually increased the dose to a drachm. This was taken in small beer. About a month after he began to take it the tumors were sensibly diminished in size. He went on taking the alkali a considerable time, and the tumors continued decreasing. It was just then that iodine began to have a sort of reputation, much beyond what it deserved, for the cure of morbid growths, and I gave the tincture of iodine. It was curious that while he took the tincture of iodine he lost flesh generally, but the tumors began to grow again. Finding this to be the case, I left off the iodine, and gave the liquor potassæ a second time. He took an immense quantity altogether, and left the hospital very much improved, being directed to continue to take the medicine for some time longer off and on. I had lost sight of him for some time; when I happened to be requested to visit a patient in Mortimer Street. I did not observe the servant that opened the door, but as I came down he stopped me in the hall, and said that he wished to thank me for what I had done for him. To my surprise it was this very man. He had gone on taking the caustic alkali for a considerable time, and you may suppose how much he was improved by his being able to get a situation as a footman. There were some remains still of the tumors, but nothing that any one would have observed. I have seen some other cases of the same kind, and where I have had the opportunity of giving liquor potassæ it seemed to be of great service. But I have not tried it in every case, and I have been informed that in some other cases it has been tried to a great extent without the same good result.

These tumors feel like fat, but there is no distinct boundary, and they are not so soft and elastic as common fatty tumors. This deposit of fat may take place in any part of the body, but I have seen it more frequently in the neck than elsewhere.—*Sir. B. C. Brodie.*

Cauterization of the Wound the most efficacious means of preventing the occurrence of Hydrophobia.—M. Dupuy related to the Academy of Medicine, the history of a case where a person bitten by a mad dog escaped hydrophobia by having the wound freely cauterized. At the same meeting was related the fact, that, at Martinique, eighteen individuals were bitten by mad dogs during one year, that seventeen of these had their wounds freely cauterized and did not afterwards suffer, but that the eighteenth, who did not submit to this operation, was seized with hydrophobia.—*Journal de Pharmacie;* and *Edinburgh Medical Journal.*